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Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada

Contact

Investing in people, discovery and innovation

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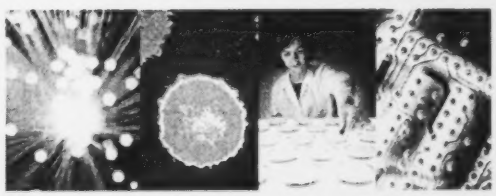

NSERC
CRSNG

A Vision Worth Sharing

Editorial by NSERC President Suzanne Fortier

Denis Drever Photography

Suzanne Fortier

One click away from NSERC's home Web page is the statement of our Vision. But I suspect that many members of our community never get there. Most visitors to our site know us well and they may think it unnecessary to go to the "About NSERC" section. They are probably far more interested in the latest news on our programs! So at every possible occasion, I talk about NSERC's vision because I believe that it is a vision worth sharing:

"NSERC will help make Canada a country of discoverers and innovators for the benefit of all Canadians."

Our vision is well couched in the world we live in and in our knowledge-based society, a world in which it is not sufficient to have access to information and knowledge. What is needed, in addition, is to be able to use the information with creativity, to discover new knowledge and to apply it in novel ways. I believe that this is the springboard to our future prosperity as a country, and as a people. So does the University of Alberta's President, Indira Samarasekera, who in her Installation Address last fall said that "Canada's competitive advantage rests neither in resources, nor knowledge, but in the ingenuity of people who will combine resources and knowledge in new ways."

Canada is fortunate to have an abundance of natural resources. But the same cannot be said about our human resources. In terms of population, we are a small country. We must, therefore, ensure that we offer our people the opportunity to develop to their full potential and contribute to the building of a strong Canadian society and economy. We cannot afford to waste anyone's talent and intelligence. And we all need to set our own goals high and aim to be discoverers and innovators. At NSERC,

(continued on page 2)

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada | Conseil de recherches en sciences naturelles et en génie du Canada

Canada

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) is a key federal agency investing in people, discovery and innovation. It supports both basic university research through research grants, and project research through partnerships among postsecondary institutions, government and the private sector, as well as the advanced training of highly qualified people.

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Continued from cover page

we are well placed to report that the spirit of discovery and innovation is alive and well in Canada: there are so many individuals within our community who are *both* discoverers and innovators.

No matter how appealing a vision statement may sound, it is not worth much until it becomes integral to every thing we do. In the coming months, we will be putting all of our activities and programs up against our vision and asking ourselves whether they are leading us in the right direction. But even this is not sufficient. We also need all members of our community to ask themselves those same questions, because a vision worth sharing is also a vision worth committing to.

Strategic Project Applications Set a Record!

The more focused Strategic Projects competition has resulted in a 10-year high in the number of applications received by NSERC. Analysis of applications reveals that more than 90 per cent address the priority research topics within the target areas. Overall, the "Healthy Environment and Ecosystems" target area received the most applications (121) with the "Management and Modeling of Ecosystems" topic proving the most popular (39). Brand new to the Strategic program, the Safety and Security target area also garnered interest from 39 applicants. Only two research topics received fewer than five applications. All in all, researchers submitted a total of 466 applications requesting $65.3 million. With everything boding well, it is now on to the peer review to select the best projects.

Canadian International Polar Year Projects Selected

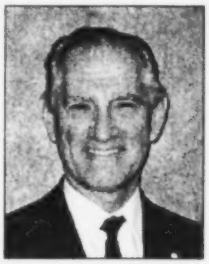
With the anticipation surrounding International Polar Year (IPY) building, NSERC will be among the first agencies worldwide to announce funding for IPY research projects. In May, our IPY selection committee chose 11 projects from approximately 70 applications received.

IPY, which will focus the efforts of researchers from around the world on the North and South polar regions, begins March 1, 2007. Proposals covered the gamut of research topics ranging from climate change impacts on northern glaciers to biodiversity of northern ecosystems. Check out the following Web site for IPY details: www.nserc.gc.ca/programs/ipyresults.

News From the Regions

New Developments on the NSERC Regional Office Front

William Coderre, newly appointed Director of Corporate and Regional Development, has taken over as NSERC's point person in Ottawa for the offices.



William Coderre

On June 6 in Winnipeg, NSERC President Suzanne Fortier officially opened the Council's second regional office, NSERC-Prairies, before a crowd of 80 academics, scientists and business leaders from all over the prairie provinces. NSERC staff in Ottawa and from the Atlantic office joined in via videoconference to welcome NSERC-Prairies into the NSERC family.

"We're delighted with this initiative because it will provide tremendous opportunities for our researchers to access programs at NSERC," says Steven Franklin, Vice-President of Research at the University of Saskatchewan. "We're looking forward to regular and frequent contact with people at the regional office when they come to our campuses, meet with our researchers, sponsor workshops and generally promote greater communication between those who do research and those who fund it."

"It's an excellent way to create linkages between universities, businesses and other prairie economy stakeholders," according to Joanne Keselman, Vice-President of Research at the University of Manitoba and Vice-President of NSERC's Council. "In addition it will raise the profile of prairie universities and help to highlight the quality of research done by the people who live, work and teach there. It will also provide a firm foundation for the next generation of creative researchers who will be there to build an exciting, knowledge-based future for all regions of Canada."

In mid-May, Rick Warner took up his duties as Manager of NSERC's third new regional office, NSERC-Pacific, located in Suite 407, 1138 Melville Street, Vancouver. Rick has been prominent in the BC science and technology community for several decades. He was a director at the Science Council of British Columbia (now the BC Innovation Council) and has worked in both the postsecondary and not-for profit sectors.

Rick Warner

The new office will represent NSERC in the far west and function much as our others. It will raise our profile there, promoting access to NSERC programs and encouraging the general public and those already in the innovation system to recognize the importance of science and engineering and NSERC's key role in supporting excellence in postsecondary research and in helping local economies exploit research results.

Andrew Sikorsky

Shown in Winnipeg at the official opening of NSERC-Prairies are (from left): William Coderre, NSERC's Director of Corporate and Regional Development; Ray Hoemsen, NSERC-Prairies Visiting Executive/Manager; Suzanne Fortier, President of NSERC; and NSERC-Prairies staff members Irene Mikawoz, Research Promotion and Development Officer, Roxanne Balcaen, Administrative Officer, and Altonz Koncan, Research Development and Promotion Officer.

UBC Research Team Wins $250,000 Brockhouse Canada Prize

Dueck Photo

NSERC President Suzanne Fortier and UBC Vice-President, Research John Hepburn, with Brockhouse Canada Prize winners (from left) Walter Hardy, Doug Bonn, and Ruixing Liang.

A team of three University of British Columbia professors, Drs. Walter Hardy, Doug Bonn and Ruixing Liang, have won NSERC's second annual Brockhouse Canada Prize for Interdisciplinary Research in Science and Engineering. Named in honour of the late Canadian Nobel laureate and physicist Bertram Brockhouse, the prize recognizes outstanding achievement by a team of researchers from different disciplines.

They received their award, which is worth $250,000, on Wednesday, May 31, from NSERC President Suzanne Fortier in a special ceremony at UBC hosted by the university's Vice-President, Research, Dr. John Hepburn.

Drs. Hardy and Bonn are physicists, while Dr. Liang is a materials scientist. The team studies the behaviour of superconductors, materials that conduct electricity without energy loss due to resistance.

The researchers' UBC lab is the world's leading source for ultra-pure superconducting crystals made of yttrium barium copper oxide, or YBCO. Recently, they have also succeeded in producing another high-purity superconducting material, thallium barium copper oxide, which has crystals that can be split perfectly and thus analysed using a variety of advanced techniques, including scanning tunnelling microscopy.

Currently, they are listening in on the microwave sounds made by the electrons flowing through the crystals in order to identify what in the atomic structure and behaviour of the crystals makes them superconductors.

Superconductors have potential applications in a number of areas, including health care (e.g., for magnetic resonance imaging), the generation and transmission of electricity, and the development of a next generation of super-fast computers and high-speed data routers, which would be used for Internet communications.

PromoScience

PromoScience, now in its sixth year, awards grants to a variety of organizations that promote the excitement of science and engineering among school-age children and young adults, and develop their skills and interests. It specifically targets programs that offer interactive, hands-on, learning experiences. Awards are made based on the quality and reach of the proposed program as well as the expertise that the organization offers.

One hundred and seventeen applications were received for the 2005 PromoScience competition. Fifty-two grants worth a total of $1.7 million over three years were awarded.

Supported programs either cover science concepts in a broad sense or focus on specific disciplines within the natural sciences and engineering. Some programs target Aboriginal youth and others who do not have ready access to resources or role models in science and engineering. The list of the successful organizations can be found on the PromoScience Web site at www.nserc.gc.ca/promoscience.

Coming to a University Near You

NSERC's staff are gearing up for their annual fall information sessions:

NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR staff from the Scholarships and Fellowships divisions will be visiting Montréal on August 31 and Vancouver, Halifax and Toronto on Sept. 15 to promote their programs and discuss recent developments with university administrators. If you are holding orientation sessions on or around these dates for students planning to apply for NSERC scholarships and fellowships and would like NSERC officers to attend, please complete the form found at www.nserc.gc.ca/scholarshipsvisits.

In September, upon request from university officials, NSERC staff from the Research Grants division will hold information sessions at eligible institutions. For more information and to submit a request, please visit www.nserc.gc.ca/grantsvisits.

To obtain more information, call Louise Benoit at 613-996-2985 or e-mail her at louise.benoit@nserc.ca.

Winnipeg to Host NSERC's 2006 Synergy and Innovation Challenge Awards Gala

University - Industry Synergy

NSERC's ***2006 Synergy and Innovation Challenge Awards Gala*** will take place at The Fairmont Winnipeg hotel on Monday, October 16. The event will be an opportunity to network in a relaxed atmosphere with senior university, corporate and government representatives, along with business and community leaders from across Canada.

Synergy Awards for Innovation will be presented to university researchers and companies judged to have best pooled their resources to transform ideas into new processes, products and services. ***Innovation Challenge Awards*** will go to graduate students who have transformed their thesis research into an outstanding business proposal.

Join us in Winnipeg this fall to celebrate Canada's innovation leaders and to toast our "entrepreneurs of tomorrow."

You can reserve your tickets and tables now through our Web site at www.nserc.gc.ca/synergy_rsvp or by phone at 613-943-1390.

Location: The Fairmont Winnipeg, 2 Lombard Place, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Date and Time: October 16, 2006; 5:45–9:30 p.m.

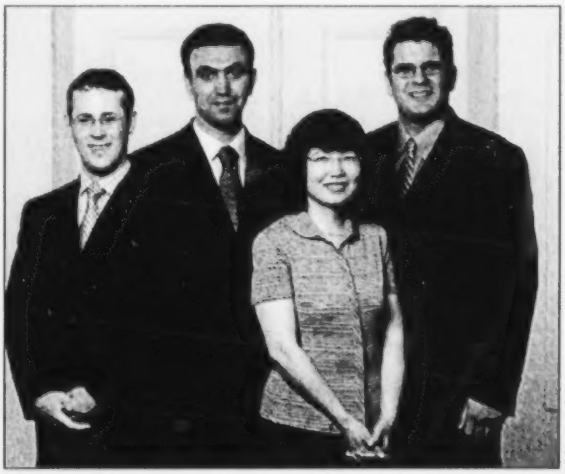
NSERC Doctoral Prizes Awarded

The 2006 winners of NSERC Doctoral Prizes were honoured during a special dinner held in Ottawa June 11. NSERC awards up to four prizes in two categories: the natural sciences, or engineering and computer sciences. Nominations are received from universities across Canada, with winners receiving a cash award of $10,000 and a silver medal.

Dr. Yonghong Bing has broken new ground with her work on piezoelectric crystals – materials that produce electrical currents when squeezed. These are used for sensors and other electromechanical devices in a variety of applications, such as ultrasound diagnostics, vibration suppression, machine tool control, and undersea communication. Dr. Bing completed her research at Simon Fraser University under the supervision of Dr. Zuo-Guang Ye.

Dr. Jeffrey Coull has made exciting discoveries in the mechanisms that cause neuropathic pain, which is caused by inflamed or damaged nerves. His work could lead to treatments that modify the disorder itself, rather than simply relieving symptoms. Dr. Coull conducted his research at McGill under the supervision of Dr. Yves De Koninck.

Dr. Brent Doiron performed groundbreaking research in developing mathematical models of feedback connections in the nervous system to explain the role of neural feedback in sensory perception. The potential benefits include helping with the design of a neural prosthesis to cure sensory or motor malfunction. Dr. Doiron completed his doctoral work at the University of Ottawa under the supervision of Drs. André Longtin and Leonard Maler.



Martin Ligman

Doctoral Prize winners (left to right): Jeffrey Coull, Behzad Akbarpour, Yonghong Bing, and Brent Doiron.

Dr. Behzad Akbarpour is a pioneer in the development of mathematical reasoning techniques to verify electronic computer chips that integrate complex signal processing algorithms. By improving the verification process, these techniques may help avoid costly or even disastrous system failures. Dr. Akbarpour conducted his research at Concordia University under the supervision of Dr. Sofiène Tahar.

For more information on the winners, visit www.nserc.gc.ca/doctoralwinners.

Competition News

Research Grants

Here is an overview of the NSERC Discovery, Research Tools and Instruments, Major Facilities Access and Subatomic Physics Infrastructure Grants resulting from the 2006 competition. A comprehensive picture of the funding (including instalments) by discipline is shown on page 7.

For a detailed list of awards and statistics, visit www.nserc.gc.ca/programs/rgresults.

Program	Number of Applications	Awards	Success Rate (%)	Total (Millions of $) Requested	Awarded
Discovery Grants (including Subatomic Physics)	3,258	2,376	73	179.3	71
Research Tools and Instruments Grants	1,426	604	42	97.8	36
Major Facilities Access Grants and Subatomic Physics Infrastructure	82	36	44	16.6	4.5
TOTAL	**4,766**	**3,016**	**63**	**293.7**	**111.5**

The Major Facilities Access program is being replaced by a new program – the NSERC Major Resources Support (MRS) program. For details on the new program, visit www.nserc.gc.ca/mrs.

Collaborative Health Research Projects

NSERC and CIHR recently announced the results of their third competition for Collaborative Health Research Projects grants. Interest in the program increased this year, with 235 groups submitting notifications in the first round. Of these, 54 ultimately submitted full proposals, and eighteen were accepted, sharing the $2 million available. The average grant size was $121,160.

A list of the projects funded can be found at www.nserc.gc.ca/programs/chrpresults.

The review of the Notifications of Intent to apply for the 2007 competition is presently underway: results of this stage will be sent to applicants at the end of June; and full applications will be due by October 2. Changes for the 2008 competition will be posted in early 2007.

Scholarships and Fellowships

Following their review of over 4,300 applications in February, NSERC's eight scholarships and fellowships selection committees offered 255 Postdoctoral Fellowships and 1,198 NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships, as well as 888 Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS). This is the fourth year the prestigious CGS scholarships have been awarded to the top-ranked applicants in the NSERC postgraduate scholarships competition. Should any of the initial CGS offers be declined, NSERC will offer a CGS to the next most highly ranked applicant awarded a postgraduate scholarship in the same program and discipline grouping. Final lists of 2006 CGS holders will be placed on NSERC's Web site in early 2007 when all the available CGS awards have been taken up.

2006 Applications and Awards

Postgraduate Scholarships (PGS) and Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS)

Selection Committee	Number of Applications	Number of PGS Awards	Number of CGS Awards	Success Rate (%)
Engineering	572	203	152	62.1
Electrical Engineering and Computing Sciences	516	199	134	64.5
Mathematical Sciences	218	100	59	72.9
Physics and Astronomy	239	84	65	62.3
Chemistry	234	89	62	64.5
Earth Sciences and Ecology	505	172	134	60.6
Cellular and Molecular Biology	509	174	139	61.5
Life Sciences and Psychology	525	177	143	61.0
TOTAL	**3,318**	**1,198**	**888**	**62.9**

Postdoctoral Fellowships (PDF)

Selection Committee	Number of Applications	Number of Awards	Success Rate (%)
Engineering	187	47	25.1
Electrical Engineering and Computing Sciences	135	35	25.9
Mathematical Sciences	59	15	25.4
Physics and Astronomy	72	18	25.0
Chemistry	119	31	26.1
Earth Sciences and Ecology	161	40	24.8
Cellular and Molecular Biology	140	36	25.7
Life Sciences and Psychology	132	33	25.0
TOTAL	**1,005**	**255**	**25.4**

2006 Discovery Grants Funding Awarded, Including Ongoing Instalments

Grant Selection Committee (GSC)	Discovery Grants[1]		Research Tools and Instruments[2]	
	No.[4]	$ (000's)	No.[4]	$ (000's)
Animal Biology[3]	8	362		
Animal Physiology[3]	3	99		
Integrative Animal Biology	513	19,059	53	2,325
Cell Biology	379	14,542	28	1,259
Molecular and Developmental Genetics	308	12,488	25	966
Plant Biology and Food Science	361	14,409	47	2,153
Evolution and Ecology	622	18,546	38	1,479
Psychology: Brain, Behav. and Cog. Sci.	492	13,446	27	839
LIFE SCIENCES	**2,681**	**92,415**	**218**	**9,022**
Analytical and Physical Chemistry	374	17,863	39	3,256
Inorganic and Organic Chemistry	351	18,734	39	3,306
General Physics	180	6,068	11	1,014
Condensed Matter Physics	273	10,741	26	1,882
Space and Astronomy	192	7,365	4	232
Solid Earth Sciences	354	11,720	18	939
Environmental Earth Sciences	409	10,735	25	1,360
PHYSICAL SCIENCES	**2,130**	**82,856**	**162**	**11,989**
Statistical Sciences	325	5,785	3	195
Pure and Applied Mathematics – A	383	6,343	1	98
Pure and Applied Mathematics – B	291	4,884		
MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES	**999**	**17,012**	**4**	**293**
Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering	619	19,204	47	4,077
Civil Engineering	558	14,210	42	2,506
Communications, Computers, and Components Engineering	519	14,252	22	1,463
Electromagnetics and Electrical Systems Engineering	338	11,113	17	1,068
Mechanical Engineering	644	16,542	49	3,164
Industrial Engineering	276	6,548	3	184
ENGINEERING	**2,952**	**81,545**	**180**	**12,463**
Computing and Information Sciences – A	466	11,270	22	1,077
Computing and Information Sciences – B	558	14,884	7	414
COMPUTING AND INFORMATION SCIENCES	**1,023**	**26,077**	**29**	**1,491**
Interdisciplinary	121	3,496	11	699
SUB-TOTAL	**9,917**	**304,706**	**604**	**35,956**
Accelerator Grants for Exceptional New Opportunities (AGENO)	15	877		
Leadership Support Initiative (LSI)	7	271		
Institutes and Initiatives[1]	4	4,003		
Subatomic Physics[2]	158	17,815	9	3,397
TOTAL	**10,101**	**327,671**	**613**	**39,353**

1 Includes Individual, Group, and Project Grants and Steacie Supplements. Leadership Support, Accelerator Grants, Subatomic Physics and the four Institutes (three in Mathematics and one in Physics) are reported as separate lines.

2 Includes Research Tools and Instruments Category 1 (a moratorium is in effect for RTI 2 and 3 except for Subatomic Physics). Certain committees review RTI jointly, which may cause significant variations in funding rate between the two committees.

3 Historical committees.

4 Number represents principal applicants, does not include the number of co-applicants.

University Faculty Awards

As a result of this year's University Faculty Awards competition, 24 highly qualified women researchers will take up faculty positions in universities across Canada. NSERC pays $40,000 per year towards the salary of an award holder for up to five years. Each UFA recipient was successful in the Discovery Grants competition and will receive research funding during tenure of the UFA. A list of the recipients can be found at www.nserc.gc.ca/programs/ufaresults.

NSERC is continuing to follow up on the UFA program evaluation completed last year.

Updated program literature for the 2007 competition will be posted on NSERC's Web site in August; the deadline for receipt of applications is November 1, 2006. Look for changes in eligibility, weighting of review criteria, duration of awards and the renewal process. Also part of the follow-up will be the development of a new strategy for increasing the representation of women and Aboriginal people in the natural sciences and engineering.

Julie Payette-NSERC Research Scholarships

Twenty-four graduate students have been selected to receive Julie Payette-NSERC Research Scholarships. Named after Canadian astronaut Julie Payette, the scholarships – worth $25,000 a year – are awarded to the most outstanding NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships M candidates. The list of the 2006 winners can be found at www.nserc.gc.ca/programs/julie_e.htm.

NCE Program Innovates Again!

The Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) program has launched five new Networks as part of the New Initiatives (NI) program:

The Canadian Design Research Network (CDRN) will be developing novel approaches to design to improve Canadian productivity, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and make people healthier.

The Canadian Obesity Network will be coordinating Canadian researchers and health professionals in the obesity field and developing a program aimed at treating a "disease" that has been largely left untreated.

The Emerging Dynamic Global Economies (EDGE) Network will bring together top Canadian and international scholars in economics, political science, public policy, business and law to work with industry, business associations and governments. Its objective is to help develop strategies to ensure that Canada plays a leadership role in the new world economy.

The National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly (NICE) brings together more than 40 researchers, doctors, nurses and social workers from across Canada that specialize in gerontology. Its objective is to help Canada find a solution to the shortage of trained professionals able to care for a "greying" population, and a lack of students enrolling in these specialties.

PREVNet (Promoting Relationships and Eliminating Violence Network) brings together 23 university researchers and 34 non-governmental organizations. Its objective is to help schools and communities adopt more scientific – and proven – approaches to combat bullying, victimization and aggression among children and youth.

The NI program was created as a pilot in 2005 to help research groups develop new networking partnerships with their user sector with the aim of producing new knowledge and technology transfer outputs of economic and social benefit to Canadians. The funding provided (up to four years) supports the networking and partnership development activities of these groups, which are already receiving research funding through other programs of the federal granting agencies.

The NCE program is launching a second pilot program to foster major Strategic International Collaborations by the Networks. This program will be open to all existing NCEs and will be subject to a peer review evaluation of proposals. The objective is to enable the NCEs to establish major international collaborations with equivalent organizations around the world with a view to accessing expertise, facilities and knowledge not readily available in Canada. Details of the program are being finalized and a call for proposals will be directed to the NCEs early this summer.

Schulich School of Engineering Showcases Its Graduate Student Researchers

The Schulich School of Engineering at the University of Calgary held its Annual Graduate Student Research Conference in May. This event, organized primarily by graduate students, provides them with valuable experience in presenting current research projects to an audience of students, faculty members, and guests. Pierre Bilodeau, NSERC's Director of Scholarships and Fellowships, and Irene Mikawoz, Research Promotion and Development Officer at NSERC-Prairies, attended and presented a brief overview of NSERC's Scholarships and Fellowships programs. At the event, twenty four students were recognized for outstanding presentations, each receiving $300 and a certificate. Also recognized were more than one hundred individuals from the School who had recently been awarded major scholarships and fellowships, including Canada Graduate Scholarships, NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships and Industrial Postgraduate Scholarships, and provincial and institutional awards.

Pierre Bilodeau (left) and Ali Deriszadeh, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Chemical & Petroleum Engineering and one of 24 recipients of a $300 award for best oral presentation during the 2006 SSE Graduate Student Research Conference.

Ludo Zanzotto: Paving the Way for Better Roads

Dr. Ludo Zanzotto, Senior Chairholder of the NSERC/Husky Energy Industrial Research Chair in Bituminous Materials, decided early on to go into the family business. For more than three decades, he has followed in the footsteps of his father, a pioneer of asphalt research in the former Czechoslovakia and founder of the department specialized in chemical and petroleum engineering at the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava.

Dr. Zanzotto and his parents faced various political adversities in post-war Czechoslovakia, making it difficult for him to obtain an education and professional advancement. He persisted, however, and eventually earned his doctoral degree in the very department his father had established years earlier. After spending a dozen years as a chemical engineer in his homeland, he and his young family left eastern Europe and came to Canada in 1981. Two years later he established an asphalt research group at Nova Husky Research Corporation in Calgary.

As a professor of chemical and petroleum engineering and civil engineering at the University of Calgary, Dr. Zanzotto now heads a highly successful research program focusing on improving the quality, safety, environmental sustainability, and longevity of the materials that cover our roads. Sponsored by Husky Energy, the Chair in Bituminous Materials was established in 1995 as a scientific and technical centre for the asphalt industry, to perform research, and to train a new generation of specialists in the field. Dr. Zanzotto and his multidisciplinary team carry out basic and applied research that encompasses asphalt rheology, chemistry, utilization of post-consumer waste, and the development of North American pavement specifications.

Ludo Zanzotto

The Chair has created new opportunities for undergraduate and graduate training in paving mixes and asphalt binders. Thanks to Dr. Zanzotto's nurturing of strong relationships with researchers abroad, the Chair has grown to become a leading international research centre. As a result, the Chair has close ties with numerous universities and other research centres around the world. An International Research Laboratory in Bituminous Materials, jointly run by the University of Calgary and the Slovak University of Technology, has now been established in Bratislava under Dr. Zanzotto's leadership.

Following the massive political changes that swept eastern Europe during the early 1990s, which included Slovakia and the Czech Republic becoming independent states, Dr. Zanzotto re-established other ties to his native country as well. In 1992, he was named Honorary Consul of Slovakia in Canada. In 2003 he was decorated with the Medal of the President of the Slovak Republic for his contribution to relations between Canada and Slovakia. The Slovak University of Technology awarded him an honorary doctorate in 2004 for his work in petroleum technology. Finally, in 2006 he was promoted to Honorary Consul General of Slovakia. "Not bad for a non-conformist," says Dr. Zanzotto.

The Ecology and Evolution Community Has a New Society

Following a suggestion by the NSERC Evolution and Ecology Grant Selection Committee (GSC18), NSERC hosted a meeting last September to permit their community to consider its future directions. One significant outcome of that meeting was the founding of the Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution, www.ecoevo.ca.

NSERC President Suzanne Fortier opened the scientific symposium at the Society's inaugural meeting in April, and six NSERC-funded keynote speakers shared their insights on the importance of ecology and evolution to Canada. The inaugural meeting agenda also included the ratification of a constitution and the election of officers, as well as two sessions with close to 200 posters. NSERC also hosted a session on NSERC student and fellowship support, and one on research grant funding.

The CSEE now has nearly 600 members, approximately half of which are students. The next meeting will be held at the University of Toronto in 2007.

Advisory Committee for International Strategy to Report to Council in Mid-October

Council has created a new external Advisory Committee to help NSERC develop an international strategy. The strategy would facilitate an integrated approach to policies and programs, strategic parnerships and corporate activities. The Committee will also advise on how to overcome barriers to international collaboration, attract and support foreign students, and develop new initiatives to achieve international objectives.

The Committee's recommendations are expected to be presented to Council in October.

Membership of the International Strategy Advisory Committee

Chair

Edwin Bourget*
Vice Rector of Research
Université de Sherbrooke

Members

Britta Baron
Associate Vice-President, International
University of Alberta (as of Sept. 1, 2006)
currently Director, Canadian Universities' Centre in Berlin

Lorna Jean Edmonds
Director, Research Services
Queen's University

Arvind Gupta
Scientific Director, MITACS NCE
Simon Fraser University

John Hepburn
Vice-President, Research
University of British Columbia

Philip Hicks
President
Nova Scotia Agricultural College

Denis Thérien
Vice-President, Research and International Relations
McGill University

Mihaela Ulieru
Canada Research Chair in Adaptive
Information Infrastructures for the e-Society
University of New Brunswick

Robert Young*
President
Promorpheus Consultants Inc.

* Member of NSERC Council

Deadlines Fast Approaching

Researchers are reminded that the deadline for receipt of a Notification of Intent to Apply for a Discovery Grant (Form 180) is August 1. In addition, the new deadline for the receipt of Research Tools and Instruments Grant applications is October 25.

The relevant forms and instructions are on NSERC's Web site at www.nserc.gc.ca/forms/formtable2_e.htm.

Did You Know...?

Did you know that the Nov. 2005 issue of *Contact* is on the Web? The embargo placed on publications during the federal election, which took effect just as we were going to print, meant that the issue would not reach the community until early February. We therefore decided to cancel the print run and simply post it on the Web the day following the election. Although we notified the community by a variety of means, we may have missed you...

Staff changes at NSERC, including a new president, the launch of a new prize – the NSERC John C. Polanyi Award, profiles of role models for young women in science and engineering, and "everything you need to know about collaborative research and development grants" are among the many interesting articles.

So, if you haven't read the Nov. issue, be sure to visit www.nserc.gc.ca/pubs/contactbk_e.htm.